

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



AS I SEE IT

Reach Every Military Child in North Carolina - Reach MCNC

September 16, 2010

Since September 11, 2001, North Carolina has experienced the largest deployment of military personnel since World War II. Our state is home to six major military installations as well as tens of thousands of National Guard and Reserve members scattered across North Carolina. Because nearly 64 percent of all military personnel nationwide have children, two-thirds of military families live off post and their children attend public schools, and the average military family moves three times more often than their civilian counterparts, schools provide a critical source stability and support for these children and their parents.

For this reason, educators and administrators in every one of our state's school districts, not just near military bases, must be able to meet the unique needs of children struggling with the deployment of one or both parents. Yet, far too many educators are unaware of the federal and state resources available to help these students transition, focus on learning during difficult times and succeed. That is why the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the N.C. National Guard and Reserves, military school liaison officers from Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, and Marine Corps Air Station New River have launched the "Reach Every Military Child in NC" or Reach MCNC.

Though the Reach MCNC initiative, these partners are working together to ensure that every military-connected child in our state receives the resources and support they need to achieve academic success. To kick off outreach efforts, Reach MCNC partners conducted three regional roundtable meetings in August in which school liaison officers and NC National Guard Family Program representatives shared important information about Military Impact Aid, the NC Memorandum of Agreement, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and NC National Guard Family Assistance Centers with nearly 100 LEA representatives.

Our military families make incredible sacrifices every day for our freedom. The least we can do to show our gratitude to the brave men and women who serve our country is to work together to support their children who attend our public schools. For more information about Reach MCNC or to learn how you can get involved, please visit <http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/sls/remcnc.php>.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

Bill Harrison, Chairman
State Board of Education